



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN MEN INDICTED IN MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexican men living in the Kansas City, Mo., area were indicted by a federal grand jury today for their roles in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana.

Jose Ponce-DeLeon, 31, and **Luis Ramos-Gomez**, 35, both citizens of Mexico, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Ponce-DeLeon** and **Ramos-Gomez** participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana between June 1 and 23, 2005.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Ponce-DeLeon** and **Ramos-Gomez** possessed with the intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana on June 23, 2005.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Ramos-Gomez**, an illegal alien, was in possession of a Davis Industries .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun on June 23, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is illegally in the United States to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Count Four of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Ponce-DeLeon** and **Ramos-Gomez** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged violations, including \$3,275 that was seized from a Kansas City, Mo., residence on June 23, 2005.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow